GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3660
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2006
PROMOTION OF GEMS AND JEWELLERY INDUSTRIES
Deo Shri Bikram Keshari

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) : Whether the activity of lapidiary of Gem stones comes under the ambit of Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(b) : If so, the steps taken by the Government to promote these industries as Gems and Jewelleries are the one of highest foreign exchange earners of the country;

(c) : If not, whether the Government proposes to develop this programme under the KBK programme in Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts through the Planning Commission; and

(d) : If so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES & AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD)

(a)&(b): Under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), a credit-linked subsidy scheme for setting up village industries and implemented through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, gems and jewellery projects are promoted. During the last three years (2002-03 to 2004-05), 138 gems and jewellery units have been established in various parts of the country. Of these, two units have been established in Kalahandi and one each in Bolangir and Koraput Districts of Orissa.

(c)&(d): Do not arise.